Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 02969 01 OF 02 271925Z

67
ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05

BIB-01 MC-02 /091 W
---------- 078220
R 271800Z MAY 75
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2054
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 2969

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR: TIME BETWEEN PHASES: SPC MEETING MAY 27

REF: A. STATE 110784
B. MBFR VIENNA 199

SUMMARY: SPC ON MAY 27 TOOK ITS FIRST LOOK AT U.S. PROPOSAL TO SHORTEN THE DURATION OF THE TME BETWEEN PHASES. CANADA SUPPORTED THE U.S. PROPOSAL VERBATIM, ANDNETHERLANDS SUPPORTED IT GENERALLY. UK REP SAID LONDON WAS VERY POSITIVE TOWARD U.S. PROPOSAL AND WELCOMED IT. HOWEVER, FRG REP SAID BONN BELIEVED THAT THE U.S. PROPOSAL WOULD NOT HELP GAIN EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF PHASING, AND WOULD BLUR THE CLEAR SEPARATION BETWEEN PHASES. ITALIAN REP SAID THAT FRG POSITION WAS CLOSE TO POSITIONS PREVIOUSLY TAKEN BY ITALY. SPC RETURNS TO THIS QUESTION THURSDAY, JUNE 5. END SUMMARY.

1. CANADAIAN REP (BARTLEMAN) SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES SUPPORTED
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 02969 01 OF 02 271925Z

THE U.S. PROPOSAL (REF A) VERBATIM.

2. FRG REP (HOYNCK) SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. PROPOSAL REQUIRED VERY CAREFUL STUDY. THE MAIN ADVANTAGE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

CLAIMED FOR THE U.S. PROPOSAL IS THAT IT COULD ENHANCE THE
ATTRACTIVENESS OF PHASING TO THE EAST. HOWEVER, BONN BELIEVES
THAT THE EAST HAS MUCH MORE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH
PHASING THEN SIMPLY THE TIME BETWEEN PHASES. BONN BELIEVES
THAT THE U.S. PROPOSAL TO SHORTEN THE TIME BETWEEN PHASES WOULD
NOT HELP GAIN EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF PHASING. IN ADDITON,
SIGNIFICANTLY SHORTENING THE TIME BETWEEN PHASES IN THIS MANNER
WOULD BLUR THE PRESENTLY CLEAR SEPARATION BETWEEN PHASES. PHASE
III NEGOTIATIONS COULD ACTUALLY BEGIN PRIOR TO MUCH PROGRESS IN
IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE I WITHDRAWALS, AND PRIOR TO PARLIAMENTARY
APPROVAL OF THE PHASE I AGREEMENT. THIS WOULD GIVE THE OTHER
SIDE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE I WITHDRAWALS
PENDING SATISFACTORY PROGRESS (FROM THE EASTERN VIEWPOINT) IN THE
PHASE II NEGOTIATIONS.

3. NETHERLANDS REP (MEESMAN) SAID THAT THE DUTCH AUTHORITIES WERE
GENERALLY FAVORABLE TOWARD THE U.S. PROPOSALS. THEY WERE NOT
AFRAID OF THE POSSIBILITY RAISED BY THE FRG THAT THE OTHER SIDE
COULD DELAY INPLEMENTATION OF PHASE I WITHDRAWALS PENDING SATIS-
FACTORY PROGRESS IN PHASE II, SINCE THE ALLIES, IN THAT CASE,
COULD BREAK OFF PHASE II NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, THE HAGUE
REGRETTED THAT THE U.S. PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE THE TIME FOR IMPLEMENTATION

OF WITHDRAWALS BEGIN WITH ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE PHASE I AGREEMENT,
RATHER THAN WITH SIGNATURE OF THE PHASE I AGREEMENT, SINCE THIS
WOULD GIVE THE OTHER SIDE SOME SCOPE FOR DELAYING RATIFICATION
AND HENCE FOR DELAYING WITHDRAWALS. (COMMENT: NETHERLANDS REP
AFTER THE MEETING TOLD U.S.REP PRIVATELY THAT HIS INSTRUCTION
CALED FOR HIM TO PROPOSE AMENDING THE LAST SENTENCE APPEARING IN PARA
3 B, REF A TO READ AS FOLLOWS: "THIS PERIOD COULD BE A MAXIMUM OF
TWELVE MONTHS FROM ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE AGREEMENT, BUT NO
LONGER THAN 24 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF SIGNATURE:" U.S. REP
SAID THAT HE HOPED THE NETHERLANDS CLD ACCEPT THE U.S. SENTENCE
AS IT WAS, WITHOUT ADDING THE LATTER PHRASE ABOUT 24 MONTHS FROM
DATE OF SIGNATURE. IF THE U.S. NEEDED TO SUBMIT THE PHASE I
AGREEMENT FOR LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL IN SOME FORM, IT WOULD BE
BETTER NOT TO TIE THE IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD TO THE DATE OF SIGNATURE
SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 02969 01 OF 02 271925Z

IN THIS MANNER. END COMMENT)

4. CANADAIAN REP, SAID THAT CANADA ALSO DID NOT SHARE FRG CONCERN
THAT THE U.S. PROPOSAL GAVE THE OTHER SIDE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DELAY
IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE I WITHDRAWALSS. HE SAID THAT IF PHASE I
FOCUSES ON U.S. AND SOVIET WITHDRAWALS, THEN THE SOVIET UNION WILL BE
THE DEMANDEUR IN PHASE II IN SEEKING REDUCTIONS BY THE OTHER ALLIES.
IT WOULD THEREFORE NOT BE IN THE SOVIET INTEREST TO DELAY
IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE I WITHDRAWALS, AND THEREBY RISK AN ALLIED
DELAY IN PHASE II NEGOTIATIONS.

5. UK REP (BALILES) SAID THAT THE UK WAS VERY POSITIVE TOWARD
THE U.S. PROPOSAL, AND WELCOMED IT, ALTHOUGH UK DID NOT HAVE ANY

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

PARTICULAR SUGGESTIONS AT THIS POINT ABOUT LANGUAGE.

6. ITALIAN REP (SFARA) SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, THE FRG POSITION WAS CLOSE TO POSITIONS PREVIOUSLY TAKEN BY ITALY ON THE TIME BETWEEN PHASES.

SECRET

PAGE 01 NATO 02969 02 OF 02 271927Z

67
ACTION ACDA-10

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SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05

BIB-01 MC-02 /091 W
---------- 078246
R 271800Z MAY 75
FM USMISSION NATO
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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 2969

7. U.S. REP (MOORE) THANKED THE PREVIOUS SPEAKERS FOR THEIR REMARKS ABOUT THE U.S. PROPOSAL, AND SAID HE WISHED TO OFFER A FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF THE PROPOSAL, IN LIGHT OF THE REMARKS. FIRST, DURING THE LAST NEGOTIATING ROUND, ONE OF THE EAST'S PRINCIPAL AND MOST INSISTENT ARGUMENTS AGAINST PHASING WAS THE LONG AND INDETERMINATE PERIOD BETWEEN PHASES (REF B).
THE U.S. POROPOSAL WOULD THUS DISARM ONE OF THE MAIN EASTERN ARGUMENTS AGAINST PHASING, AND WOULD THEREBY ENHANCE THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF PHASING TO THE EAST. THE U.S PROPOSAL WOULD DO THIS WILE MAINTAINING A CLEAR SEPARATION BETWEEN PHASE, AND THE BENEFITS WHICH STEM FROM THIS SEPARATION (SINGLING OUT SOVIET FORCES FOR RELATIVELY LARGE REDUCTIONS, A CEILING ON SOVIET FORCES WITHOUT CEILINGS ON NON-U.S. ALLIES, ETC.). A LONG PERIOD BETWEEN PHASES IS NOT NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN A CLEAR SEPARATION AND TO ACHIEVE THESE BENEFITS. RE THE POSSIBLLITY THAT A SHORT PERIOD WOULD GIVE THE OTHER SIDE THE CHANCE TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE I WITHDRAWALS PENDING EASTERN SATISFACTION IN PHASE II NEGOTIATIONS, U.S. REP AGREED WITH

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

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CANADIAN REP THAT THIS WAS NOT IN SOVIET INTEREST, AND
SAID THAT IF THE SOVIETS DID DELAY PHASE I WITHDRAWALS,
THE ALLIES COULD STALL IN THE PHASE II NEGOTIATIONS.
HE NOTED THAT THE ALLIES HAD ALREADY AGREED THAT THIS COURSE WAS
OPEN TO THEM, SINCE PRESENT NAC GUIDANCE ON TIME BETWEEN PHASES
CONTAINS A NOTE FOR INFORMATION OF AHG THAT PERFORMANCE ON
COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN IN PHASE I AGREEMENT WOULD BE
A FACTOR IN DETERMINING CONDUCT AND OUTCOME OF PHASE II NEGOTIATONS.

8. FRG REP QUESTIONED WHETHER POLITICAL REALITIES WOULD PERMIT
THE ALLIES TO STALL IN PHASE II NEGOTIATIONS.

9. SPC WILL NEXT CONSIDER THE U.S. PROPOSAL ON THURSDAY, JUNE 5.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO02969
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750599/abbrzkgf.tel
Line Count: 181
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 110784 B. MBFR VIENNA 199
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: TIME BETWEEN PHASES: SPC MEETING MAY 27
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO MBFR VIENNA
BONN
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Type: TE
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